10-93

Zero Beat

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc. - our 46th ARRL affiliated year

Volume 2, No. 2 October 1993

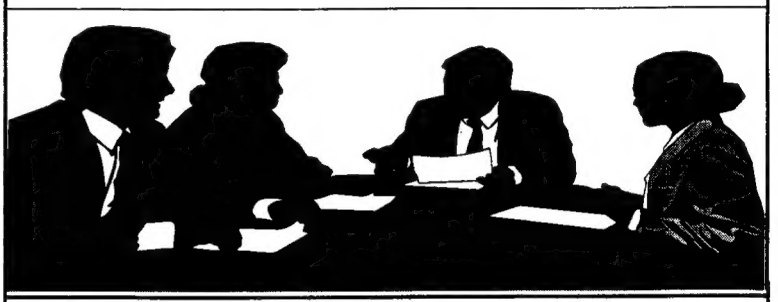
Next HCRA Meeting

The next Hampden County Radio Association meeting will take place on Friday night October 1, 1993 and will feature an extremely exciting topic, severe weather. Come join the fun as you become entertained by Evan Rubin, a meteorologist from Channel 22 out of Springfield. Be sure to tell your friends and pass the word of this presentation. Evan is well known in the community and it should be interesting to hear what he has to say. Due to commitments at the station, Evan will be unable to be present at the traditional starting time of 8:00. So this month only the meeting is set to kick of at 8:30 P.M. However, the doors will still open at 7:30 and the hour would be an excellent time to socialize. An "Open Forum" (Club Business) will be held this evening at 8:00-8:30 in order to fill the vacant time. Come and voice your opinion. Hope to see you there!!

Feeding Hills Congregational Church
Route 57 & 187
Feeding Hills, Massachusetts

Comming in November: The HCRA's **Annual Auction**

Board of Directors



Officers

President	VACANT	Your name
Vice President	VACANT	could be here!!
Treasurer	N1AEH	Greg Stoddard
Secretary	N1DUY	Jim Sebolt

Directors

Expiring 1994		**Expiring 1995**	
N1FOW	Mike Griffin	N1KBY	Jeff Hugabone
NR1L	Kevin Hilinski	N1IJK	Barry Mason
K1MVR	Dave Olson	N1GVV	Adam Olson
VACANT	VACANT	WA1OHR	Everett Paluska

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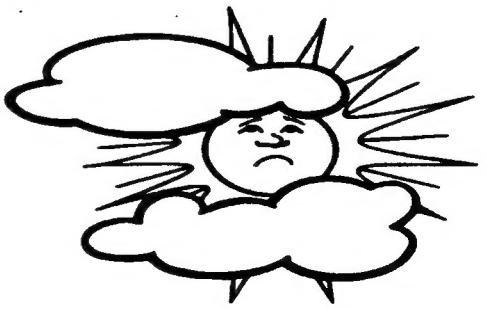


This Month: Evan Rubin to discuss severe weather

October Meeting Info

Don't miss it!!

This meeting looks to be one of the most exciting meetings ever held in the history of the HCRA. It is about a topic everyone is fascinated with, severe weather. Evan Rubin, a well known meteorologist from channel 22 will give this presentation. We suggest you tell your friends, bring your XYL, your dog, or anyone you might know that will make Evan feel welcome. We would like a big attendance so Evan will be impressed. More information about the meeting and starting time is located on the front cover of this issue. Hope to see you there!

Tech Corner Update

Tech corner is on the rebound! It looks like things will be kicking off in the near future, most likely at the December social as of press time. Board member, Barry NIIJK has volunteered to help coordinate Tech Corner. However, he can't do it alone. As in the past, we need volunteers to help. Most of this work simply involves giving a talk on the area of expertise you are best at. Such topics include antenna set-up, soldering techniques, HF operation, and more! If you would like to sign up for tech corner in the upcoming months, contact Barry at (413) 747-7010 and let him know.

Currently scheduled to kick off Tech Corner is a presentation on HF operation at the church in conjunction with the December Social. This meeting is also show and tell night - A giant Tech Corner!!

News from the ARRL....

League voices concern over call sign plan

The ARRL in a newsrelease this week said that a "three-year effort to resume the issuance of amateur radio club and military recreation station call signs may be in jeopardy."

"This situation has tended to demoralize newer clubs," said ARRL President George S. Wilson, W4OYI. "They've have had no new opportunity to establish a permanent, on-the-air identity."

No new club call or military recreation call signs have been issued since 1977.

The ARRL began its latest effort to persuade the FCC to resume club licensing in 1990, when it offered to assume the administrative burden of processing club applications at no cost to either the applicants or the government. When it appeared that the FCC needed special legislative authority to approve such a plan, the League sought and obtained the necessary legislation.

On July 26, 1993, when the FCC invited applications from qualified organizations to serve as call sign administrators, the ARRL submitted an application demonstrating its qualifications as well as its ability and desire to implement the new program immediately.

"Unfortunately," said David Sumner, ARRL Executive Vice President, "applications from four other less qualified entities have already delayed, and could even jeopardize the program."

To serve as call sign administrator, an organization must demonstrate, among other things, that it is tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exists for the purpose of furthering the amateur service; that its membership includes at least one percent of the amateur operators licensed by the FCC (presently more than 614,000); that it will accept and process applications without regard to race, sex, religion, national origin or membership (or lack thereof) in any amateur service organization; and that it will

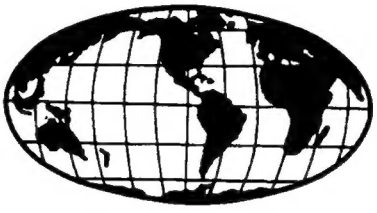
Continued on Page 5

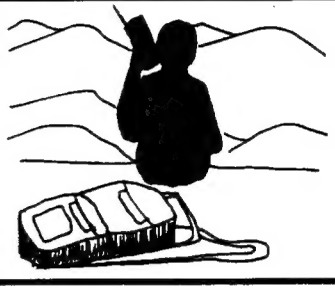
October Radio Factoids

10/1/28- On this date, "W" and "K" call signs went into effect for U.S. radio amateurs. "W" for continental stations, and "K" for all stations in the insular possessions and Alaska. This was per order of S.W. Edwards, Supervisor of Radio, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Detroit Michigan,

10/6/14- Armstrong patent award for regen. receiver. This historic patent, later contested by de Forest, was one of the few that brought Armstrong any real income. His FM patents were largely ignored or disregarded -illegally- by the industry giants who had a vested interest in AM.

Technician Class: There will be a class starting up soon for the technician class license. It will be taught be Steve, WA1YEF and Barry, N1IJK. Morse Code will be taught a half hour early for those interested. If interested, contact Barry @ (413) 747-7010





Future Meetings + Events

October- Friday October 1 - This meeting looks to be extremely exciting and interesting. The board has planned the topis to be about something everyone talks about and is interested in, the weather. The topic looks to be about severe weather and how ham radio helps out. The speaker looks to be an extremely well known meteorologist from Channel 22 in Springfield, Evan Rubin. Evan is often seen doing the weather on TV from the different newscast times. He is well educated on the topic and it should be a sight not to miss. Please the article in this issue for more information on Evan, and the topic he will talk on. Be sure to tell your friends and join us for this meeting!

October 7- Board meeting at Greg's house. Anyone is welcome. If interested in attending, see Greg, N1AEH at the next meeting for directions.

October 30+31- CQ WW DX Phone Contest beginning 0000Z (48 hour contest)

November- Friday November 5 - As always, the November meeting is reserved for an extremely popular event in the past, the annual auction. The rules will be announced in the next issue of Zero Beat. However, these rules will be extremely similar to those in the past. The auction is always a fun time for all. It is an excellent opportunity to purchase that long awaited tube, or socialize with fellow Hams. Please pass the word. Anyone can attend our auction, you do not have to be an HCRA member. Steve Nelson, WA1EYF will once again be the auctioneer.

December- Friday December 3 - The December meeting will again be the HCRA's annual social and show and tell. You will be permitted to bring your favorite radio toy and share it with the membership. Keep reading Zero Beat in the future for information all of of the HCRA's upcoming events. Also as the cold weather approaches, look for information on the HCRA's cancellation procedure to keep you informed.

June 25+26- Field Day. It is not too early to plan for Field Day at the Agawam High School. Last year everyone who attended had an excellent time. Please plan to join us for next years event.

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.

Membership Questionnaire

RESULTS

The following lists the results of the membership questionnaires that were filled out at the September meeting by the members. The amount of people that responded to each question was 36. The number in parentheses besides each letter indicates the amount of people that chose that particular response. If you have not filled out a questionnaire and you would like to, it is not too late. Simply fill out the extra survey submitted in this issue and either mail it to the club P.O. Box (located on the outside of ZB by the mailing label) or drop it off at a future meeting! Your opinions matter!!

1. The HCRA's Meetings are:
- a. Too Technical (2)
- b. Not Technical enough (8)
- c. Perfect the way it is (26)

2. The HCRA's banquet:
- a. Should be kept at the church (19)
- b. Should be at a restaurant (10)
- c. A picnic sounds good (7)

2a. The HCRA's banquet:
- a. Should be kept in June (32)
- b. Should be moved to a different month (3)
- c. The banquet is a waste of time for the HCRA (1)

3. The type of refreshments at a regular HCRA meeting should:
- a. Consist of pizza, soda, and coffee (4)
- b. Stay the same (Coffee and doughnuts) (26)
- c. Be the same with pizza (4)
- d. Be eliminated (2)

4. The HCRA's meeting topics:
- a. Are interesting now (25)
- b. Should try more things unrelated to ham radio (10)
- c. Other: "Try a meeting on home security" (1)

5. About the HCRA's participation in the Jan. VHF contest:
- a. Is fine the way it is (29)
- b. I would like more info about this (5)
- c. The emphasis should be scaled down a bit (1)
- d. I hate VHF! eliminate the HCRA's participation (1)

6. Field Day:
- a. Is fine the way it is (29)
- b. Should be moved away from the Agawam High School (4)
- c. I would like more info (3)
- d. The HCRA's participation in Field Day is a waste of time (1)

7. The December Social:
- a. Is fine the way it is (28)
- b. Should consist of a banquet (Instead of having it in June) (3)
- c. We should have a speaker instead (5)

8. The HCRA's election procedure:
- a. Is fine the way it is (26)
- b. Needs to be improved (7)
- c. I would like more info (3)
- d. Other: no responses or suggestions

9. The HCRA should consider getting involved in repeaters:
- a. This is a great idea (7)
- b. A general interest club should not become involved in such an endeavor (14)
- c. I am not sure (15)

10. Are you interested in hearing shuttle rebroadcasts?
- a. Yes (23)
- b. No (10)
- c. I am not sure (3)

11. I am interested in having an open forum prior to each meeting
- a. Yes (20)
- b. No (10)
- c. I am not sure (6)

The questionnaire also contained a Tech Corner question in which the majority wanted but only one person was willing to help. Everyone also liked Zero Beat. There also contained a write in question about meeting topic ideas. Some suggestions included more meetings on DX, satellite, qrp, and home security.

News from the ARRL Board

provide the FCC with a plan for processing applications for modified or renewed club licenses in the event the organization ceases to function as an administrator.

"The ARRL has demonstrated that it meets all these criteria," Sumner said. "Four other entities have filed applications that appear to be defective in one or more respects."

On August 5 the ARRL filed its opposition to the requests of the other four entities to serve as call sign administrators, citing the shortcomings in their submissions and reminding the Commission that there is no requirement that more than one administrator be named -nor any advantage to be gained from doing so. "This has nothing to do with the merits of the other organizations, particularly those who do good work in other fields of amateur radio, "Wilson said. "It's simply that there is no need for more than one club and military recreation call sign administrator, and nothing but confusion to be gained from having more than one. It's not all that clear why these other groups jumped on board at the last minute of a three-year effort.

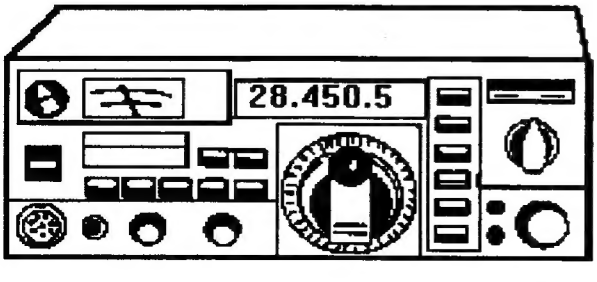
"The ARRL originated and developed the idea. We guided it through Congress. We're ready to make it work, and are uniquely qualified to do so.

"All we need is the go-ahead from the FCC. The sooner we can get it, the sooner the clubs will be able to put new call signs to good use."

The other groups who have applied to be call sign administrators are the W5YI-VEC Inc., the National Amateur Radio Association, the Quarter Century Wireless Association, and the Southeastern Repeater Association.

New Member

The HCRA would like to welcome Harvey Broverman, K1PZS who recently joined our Club. Welcome aboard Harvey and thanks for joining!



Handicapped OPs

Available at The Connecticut Institute for the Blind is the Ella Victoria Anderson Resource Room, which houses two computers and various other speech, printing and scanning devices. This equipment is available to the blind and physically handicapped having difficulty reading standard text. There is an indication that some help funding computers for your use may be available. For further information, contact Bob Knopka, 120 Holcomb St., Hartford, CT 06112, 242-2274.

Many of you have been asking about various ways in which to access computers. The National Braille Press, 88 St. Stephen St., Boston, MA 02115 has a book available entitled to Access to Technologies. This comprehensive book is available in print, Braille, on computer disk, and on tape. Contact NBP for further information.

It is generally acknowledged that service to ARRL members who are handicapped needs to be greatly improved and there are many of us, including ARRL staff, your section manger, cabined, and your director, who are concerned about this problem. But we need to know who you are. If you are a handicapped operator who cannot read print, please give me your name and call so that an attempt can be made to plan for better service. VEs are encouraged to refer names and calls, if available, to Betsey - K1EIC STM of Connecticut, with who would benefit for additional supportive services.

The Man Who Sold Hot Dogs

There was a man who lived by the side of the road and sold hot dogs. He was hard of hearing so he had no radio or T.V. He had trouble with his eyes so he read no newspapers. But he sold good hot dogs. He put up signs on the highway telling how good they were. He would stand on the side of the road and cry: "Buy a hot dog, Mister?" And people bought. He increased his meat and bun orders. He bought a bigger stove to take care of his trade. He finally got his son home from college to help him out. But something happened. His son said, "Father, haven't you been listening to the radio or T.V.? Haven't you been reading the newspapers? There is a big recession. The world situation is terrible and the domestic situation is worse," Whereupon the father thought, "Well my son's been to college, he reads the papers listens to the radio and T.V., and he ought to know." So the father cut down and his meat and bun orders, took down his advertising signs, and no longer bothered to stand on the highway and sell his hot dogs. And his hot dog sales fell overnight.

"Your right son," the father said to the boy. "We certainly are in a middle of a recession."

THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

VHF/UHF AWARD

THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE
DIVISION LEADER
QST

This Certifies That Station

W1NY

(AC1T,K1GX,KA1WER,NC1s B,I,WA1UQC,ops)

Has Achieved

SECOND PLACE, MULTIOPERATOR
UNITED STATES AND CANADA

In The

1993 ARRL JANUARY VHF SWEEPSTAKES

FIRST PLACE
WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS SECTION

W4OYI
PRESIDENT, ARRL

KR1R
CONTEST MANAGER, ARRL

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 482
West Springfield, MA 01090-0482

Application for Membership

Call Sign:_____.

New: _____ Renewal:_____.

Name: _____.
Address:_____.
City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____.

Phone: (_____)_____-_____Listed: Yes:_____No:____.

License:

.___Studying___Novice ___Technician ___Tech+ ___General ___Advanced ___Extra

ARRL: Life Member: _____ Member:_____.
VE: Advanced: ___Extra: ___General: ___Expiration:_____.

If you are a VE, would you be willing to participate in the HCRA's VE program?
Yes:___ No:___.

Regular HCRA membership is $10.00 The cost of the membership is used for items such as Zero Beat, the meeting hall, and insurance. Additional family members are FREE at no additional cost. Just mark these people in a free place on this form. If you are under 18 years of age, dues are only $5.00. Please consider a including a donation to help the HCRA in future endeavors. All donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law. Please fill out this form and make a check payable to the Hampden County Radio Association, INC. to the address above, or bring the form to any club meeting. The HCRA

Membership Dues: $ _____.
Donation: $ _____.
Total Enclosed: $ _____.

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.

Membership Questionnaire

Dear HCRA member, please fill out this questionnaire if you have not already done so. The information gathered here will help the board of directors monitor how you, the members feel about the HCRA. To participate, simply circle the letter that best suits how you feel on a particular response for each question. If you feel that on one question you wish to circle two letters, you may do so except please put a check besides your most important response. This information is completely confidential. Please either bring this to one of the future meetings or simply mail it to the club adress located by your mailing label of Zero Beat. Thanks for helping out with this project.

1. The HCRA's meetings are:
- **a. Too Technical**
- **b. Not Technical enough**
- **c. Perfect the way it is**

2. The HCRA's banquet:
- **a. Should be kept at the church**
- **b. Should be at a restaurant**
- **c. A picnic sounds good**

2a. The HCRA's banquet:
- **a. Should be kept in June**
- **b. Should be moved to another month**
- **c. The banquet is a waste of time for the HCRA**

3. The type of refreshments at a regular HCRA meeting should:
- **a. Consist of pizza, soda, and coffee**
- **b. Stay the same (only coffee and doughnuts)**
- **c. Be the same with pizza**
- **d. Be eliminated**

4. The HCRA's meeting topics:
- **a. Are interesting now**
- **b. Should try more things unrelated to ham radio**
- **c. Other:_____**

5. About the HCRA's participation in the Jan. VHF contest:
- **a. Is fine the way it is**
- **b. I would like more information about this**
- **c. The emphasis should be scaled down a bit**
- **d. I hate VHF! eliminate the HCRA's participation**

6. Field Day:
- **a. Is fine the way it is**
- **b. Should be moved away from the Agawam High School**
- **c. I want more info about Field Day**
- **d. The HCRA's participation in Field Day is a waste of time**

7. The December social:
- **a. Is fine the way it is**
- **b. Should consist of a banquet (Instead of having it in June)**
- **c. We should have a speaker instead**

8. The HCRA's election procedure:
- **a. Is fine the way it is**
- **b. Needs to be improved**
- **c. I want to learn more about the HCRA's election procedure**
- **d. Other:_____**

9. The HCRA should consider getting involved in repeaters:
- **a. This is a great idea**
- **b. A general interest club should not get involved in such an endeavor**
- **c. I am not sure**

Please Turn the Questionnaire over to the other side.

10. Are you interested in hearing shuttle rebroadcasts?
- **a. Yes**
- **b. No**
- **c. I am not sure**

11. Do you wish the HCRA to continue to survive and grow?
- **a. Yes**
- **b. No**
- **c. I am not sure**

12. I am interested having an open forum prior to each HCRA meeting:
- **a. Yes**
- **b. No**
- **c. I am not sure**

13. I am interested in having Tech Corner at each meeting:
- **a. Yes**
- **b. No**
- **c. I am not sure**
- **d. I would be willing to help**

14. Zero Beat:
- **a. Is fine the way it is**
- **b. Needs improvement**
- **c. I don't read Zero Beat**

15. If you can think of any ideas that would make a good meeting topic, please list them here.

16. Do you have any other comments about the HCRA?

Thank you for taking the time and filling out this questionnaire. It is for your own benefit. It will help us to improve the club. Any additional comments you may have may be mailed to the club's address at HCRA, attn.: Board of Directors, P.O. Box 482, West Springfield, MA 01090-0482.

Nutmeg Hamfest
& Computer Show

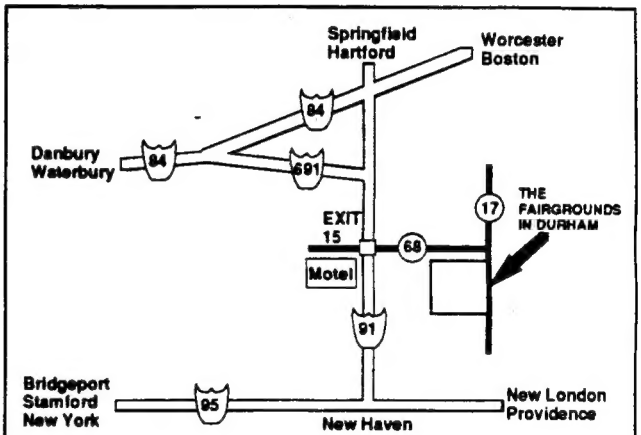
is proud to present the

1993 ARRL Connecticut State Convention

At "The Fairgrounds in Durham" Durham, Connecticut
Sunday October 10, 1993, 9 AM to 3 PM
with campsite set-up on Saturday beginning at 4 PM

Southern New England's biggest and best hamfest and computer show.
Indoor and outdoor displays and ARRL forums at the famous Fairgrounds in Durham.

- Giant ham radio and computer flea market.
- Official 1993 ARRL CT State Convention.
- Leading commercial vendor displays.
- VEC exams (register in advance).
- Outstanding refreshments.
- Only 10 minutes from Interstate 91.
- Ample free parking.
- Overnight camping on the grounds with electricity and water at most sites. Reserve campsites early.
- Indoor and outdoor spaces plus tailgating.
- Special rates at Susse Chalet motel, Exit 15, I-91 and route 68, (203) 284-0001.



Enter Fairgrounds from route 17.

Talk-in on 145.29, 147.09, 147.36 MHz repeaters

Selling space

Inside – set-up Sunday
includes one 6 x 8 ft booth, table (6 ft minimum), admission ticket — $25.00

Outside/overnight
includes overnight campsite (15 x 30 ft), selling space, no table, admission extra
Spaces assigned by number—reserve early! — **$15.00**

Tailgating – set-up Sunday
includes tailgate location, no table, admission extra — $10.00

General admission

Adult	$5.00
Student	$3.00
Under 12	free

The Nutmeg Hamfest, sponsor of the 1993 ARRL Connecticut State Convention, is a non-profit association formed from three ham radio organizations:
- Meriden Amateur Radio Club
- Middlesex Amateur Radio Society
- Shoreline Amateur Radio Club.

Proceeds from the event will help support public service, scholarship, charitable, and civic activities.

For general information and to register for VEC exams, contact:
Jim McCandless N1IZF, 203 349-3353 (evenings)
Packet inquiries: NUTMEG @ W1NRG.CT.USA.NA

For indoor or outdoor space reservations and commercial vendor set-up, contact:
John Bartscherer N1GNV, 203 238-2453 (days)
518 Broad Street, Meriden CT 06450

No alcoholic beverages permitted on fairgrounds.

October Meeting:

Evan Rubin

Meteorologist from Channel 22
To speak on Severe Weather

Friday October 1 at 8:30 P.M.

Editor: Kevin S. Hilinski NR1L

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 482
West Springfield, MA 01090-0482

Forwarding + Address correction requested

First Class Mail

AC1T E V C A 14 I 10/93

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